

OCT 16 1967

Comment

Nagging doubts on CIA power

By Edwin A. Lahey
Chicago Daily News Service

WASHINGTON — We think of the State Department as the agency that conducts our foreign affairs.

But a tremendous amount of that business is directed by the Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency.



This is one of the sober thoughts that come from "The Limits of Power," a new book by Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn) published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

McCarthy writes the way he talks, always in soft key and generally in the form of understatement.

The book's main theme is that we have ignored the lim-

its of our power in making our foreign commitments.

"America's contribution to world civilization must be more than a continuous performance demonstration that we can police the planet," McCarthy concludes. He pointed out that earlier empires in Greece, Rome, Spain, France and Britain learned that lesson the hard way.

BUT THE CHAPTERS that shook this reader were those devoted to the Defense Department and the CIA.

Through our military assistance program, directed from the Pentagon, in close co-operation with the arms industry, the United States has become the world's greatest supplier of arms.

The Pentagon brings thousands of foreign military experts here for training. This has established a spiritual liaison between the U.S. military and the colonels who periodically overthrow a government in Latin America and other parts of the globe.

McCarthy believes the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which he is a member, should give increasing attention "to the desirability, and the very morality, of our arms distribution program."

THE SENATOR reminds us that the CIA, through its "operational functions," has come a long and questionable way from 1947, when it was established by the National Security Act "for the purpose of

co-ordinating intelligence activities."

In his discussion of the CIA, McCarthy recalls that the American people have never been informed of the real reason for the untimely flight of the U-2, which the Russians shot down on the eve of a meeting between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Premier Nikita Khrushchev. Neither have we ever had answers to the many questions raised about the CIA's role in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

It's interesting that in this period, when our statesmen are looking for fat to cut in the federal budget, we don't have the slightest public idea of the annual secret appropriations for the CIA.